

February 20, 1976

we take some of our home based stores that have located here in Nebraska and discriminate against them and I see the very capable counselor, John DeCamp, giving you some pointers against the nonlawyer, Senator Mahoney, and I know I am up against the big attorneys here because you have been well trained in this, Senator Schmit, and you do a good job. Senator DeCamp is a good little coach but I know that the people of Nebraska are not about to see the meat sold in the little mama, papa stores, sold in the locally owned small little store, the supermarket that comes across Nebraska and we don't have any of the great big conglomerates. We are not talking about the ones you sued. We are talking about just the little guy on main street. Why do you want him to pay in seven days. Why do you want to discriminate against him. Why do you want to chase him to Iowa and to Kansas and to Missouri to buy his meat products. Senator Schmit, you have very capably got this bill on a very cloudy Friday morning here going across, which everybody is about half asleep and worn out. I sure hope you don't put this across with the help of Senator Skarda, who is moving into the country and will probably be a big beef packer.

SENATOR BURBACH: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, this bill has been sitting in Committee or sitting out here for an awfully long time and we certainly did discuss the mama and papa stores and realized all the problems, talked it over with them on repeated occasions and encouraged them to bring in any amendments and I think that could still be done, but why don't we just advance the bill at this point. It will highlight the matter, and if there are proper amendments, they will be flowing in and then we can adopt them or look into it further. But right now, I think the issue is before us. It sat around for a year and a half or so. It is time to bring it to a head and advance the bill, and if there are changes, we can get them done later.

SENATOR BURBACH: The Chair recognizes Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I think the mama and papa grocery stores is really a confusing issue on this one. The knowledge I have gotten of this shows that the small retailer or the mom and pop store are already paying quite promptly to the large packer. He is able to dominate the transaction and a lot of them are paying in a lot less than seven days right now. The problem of the slow payment is when the small packer or the medium sized packer sells to the big chain store and they use their muscle in negotiating a deal where they come out with the slow payments and use their money. The big retailing outfit is collecting everyday for that money. The medium sized and small packer has to pay within forty-eight hours to the farmer and they set up using the packer's money. They use the customer's money and have a tremendous float to work with. This will just reduce it down and